(b) if so, the total quantity of smuggled gold seized by the authorities on the above border during the last six months; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to check this smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not possible to say whether smuggling of gold on the Indo-Bangladesh border has increased during the last several months. However, 34.037 kgs. (approximately) of contraband gold have been seized by the Customs authorities on this border during the period from January to June 1991.

(c) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country including those of the Indo-Bangladesh border has been geared up. Close coordination is being maintained between all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling. The Customs officers have been equipped with vehicles, fire-arms, night vision binoculars etc. For combating smuggling activities more effectively. A telecommunication network has also been provided to the field formations along the Indo-Bangladesh border.

Construction of National Highway to link Bidar-Gulbarga-Bangalore with National Highway Nos. 4, 9 or 13

5945. DR. B.G. JAWALI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals to construct National Highways to link Bidar-Gulbarga-Bangalore with National Highway Nos. 4,9 or 13;

(b) if so, the stage at which the proposals are pending at present; and

(c) the reasons for delay in implementing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a).The State Government of Karnataka have forwarded certain proposals for declaration of new National Highways in the 8th Five Year Plan, which, *Inter-alia*, includes the road connecting Bidar to Gulbarga and Hiriyur on National Highway Nos. 4.

(b) and (c) Declaration of new National Highways in the country including those in Karnataka can be taken up for consideration only after the formulation of the 8th Five year Plan.

Hydrographic Survey of West Coast canal of Kerala

5946. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hydrographic Survey of Kollam, Thiruvananthapuram stretch of the West Coast Canal in Kerala was to be done during 1989-90;

(b) if so, whether the survey has been conducted;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a).and (b). Yes, Sir. It was carried out during 1989-90.

(c) & (d) Do not arise.